

# Rogue River Courier

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No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

## MACHINERY FOR FACTORY ARRIVING

### Car of Materials for the Contractors Here, and First Car of Structural Steel to Arrive on March 2nd

The first car of machinery for use in the construction work on the new sugar factory arrived in Grants Pass yesterday, and consists of concrete mixers and other machines and tools necessary in the first stages of the work. It came through from Salt Lake city, and will be followed by other tools and machinery for the Dyer people. The materials are being unloaded and taken to the factory site by team, the siding not yet being ready for use. One car load of the structural steel has already been shipped from Minneapolis for the factory, and is due to arrive in Grants Pass on March 2. Other cars will follow it closely, and the big structure will be taking form within the very near future.

The work of clearing the 50-acre factory site in South Grants Pass is progressing as rapidly as men and teams can accomplish it, portions of the site having had a heavy growth upon it. Every night, after time for the quitting of work, the booming of blasting powder tells the story of the blowing out of stumps and trees too large for the teams or the 30-horse power tractor to pull. Excavation for the factory foundation will begin early in the week.

Geo. Austin, who was in the valley during the week, left Saturday to return to Utah, but will return later in the season to offer expert advice in beet culture, and to watch the progress of the work here. His son, E. N. Austin, has returned to Grants Pass after a few days in the Medford district, where he attended the meetings which his father addressed. He says that the meeting held at Central Point Thursday night was especially successful, standing room being at a premium, and the interested farmers staying till midnight to listen to the talk and to ask questions regarding beet culture. Alex Nibley has also returned from Medford, Messrs. Story and Pettigill being in charge of the work there at this time. A meeting was held at Medford Friday night, and while it was not largely attended, much of value will probably come from it. At this meeting Mr. Austin renewed the assurance that all the upper end of the valley had to do to get a factory next season was to grow the beets.

The soil and cultural experts are greatly pleased with the outlook in the Rogue valley, finding here much soil that is admirably adapted to the culture of beets. The senior Austin stated before leaving that he expected that the record for high yield of beets per acre would be taken by this valley, as there were tracts here that he had never seen equalled for the growth of the vegetable.

## AUSTRIAN-BULGAR HOSTS IN DURAZZO

(By United Press Leased Wire.)  
Rome, Feb. 26.—Durazzo, Albanian seaport, has been evacuated, said an official announcement today. Its momentary occupation by the Austrian-Bulgar allies is expected.

Durazzo has been surrounded by the Austrians and Bulgarians for some time and its fall was predicted about two weeks ago.

## HOUSE MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR ARMY OF 145,000

Washington, Feb. 26.—The house military committee today voted to recommend a regular army of 145,000, after having defeated Congressman Tilson's plan for an army of 220,000, as advocated by General Leonard Wood.

Congressman Kahn, absent from the voting, favors a reconsideration, but it is understood the question will not be reopened.

The bill authorizes a \$20,000,000 appropriation for a nitrate plant to be devoted to fertilizer manufacture in peace times and to munitions manufacture in war times. It would be leased in peace to a private concern at a return of 3 per cent on the investment, with the government fixing the price for its output.

## CRISIS NEAR IN THE GERMAN SITUATION

(By United Press Leased Wire.)  
Washington, Feb. 26.—With the German submarine warfare on armed enemy merchant ships scheduled to start in four days, it appeared unlikely today that congress would interfere effectively before then in the German-American diplomatic situation.

A crisis in relations between the two countries, however, is imminent. Germany's reply to the American refusal to acquiesce in the German project was expected momentarily, and it was believed German Ambassador von Bernstorff would be ready to present it to the state department Monday.

That the answer would be unsatisfactory was regarded by the administration as a foregone conclusion. Moreover, despite rumors of a postponement of the warfare decree, officials did not believe Germany plans any delay.

After two days of discord, congress prepared today to relax its agitation for a warning to Americans to refrain from traveling on armed merchant ships of the belligerents.

Some "flare-ups" were still anticipated, but serious attempts to pass over President Wilson's objections any measures warning Americans to keep off armed merchant ships had been temporarily abandoned.

In the senate the Gore warning resolution had no chance of coming up today because of the legislative maneuver of taking a recess yesterday until today, instead of adjourning as customary.

As for the statements of Speaker Champ Clark and Majority Leader Kitchin that an "overwhelming majority" of the house favors a warning, prominent house members declared these views are mistaken.

A group favoring a compromise measure suggested that President Wilson warn Americans from armed belligerent ships, but declare them within their rights if they violated the warning. As a corollary to this proposal, the administration would be asked to warn Germany that it had taken all possible steps to protect citizens, but still would hold Germany to "strict accountability" if any were injured or killed through German attacks.

## BLOODHOUNDS ON TRAIL OF BANKERS' MURDERER

(By United Press Leased Wire.)  
San Jose, Cal., Feb. 26.—On the roads leading out of Santa Clara bloodhounds today took up the hunt for the murderer of George Jones, wealthy retired banker. Meanwhile, threats of lynching were heard. Even women joined in them.

The authorities are hunting for a man who had worked for Jones and who has been missing since yesterday morning, when Jones was stabbed to death.

## NO DEBATE IN CONGRESS ON WARNING

### Lid Is Kept Clamped Down, and Discussion Over the Question of Armed Merchantmen Fails to Materialize

Washington, Feb. 26.—From one of the allied nations America has heard as to her proposal that, for the sake of humanity, armament be removed from merchant ships. What this reply stated, or from whence it came, the administration would not announce today.

It was, however, of such a nature as to have no effect upon the American difficulty with Germany over the latter's decree of war upon armed enemy merchant vessels.

Meantime, Washington was today less excited about the latter subject than it had been for several days, due largely to the administration's restrictions upon congress.

Discussion of the decree and of a warning to Americans to keep off of armed belligerent ships was kept from the floors. Chairman Stone, of the senate foreign committee, kept "on the lid" so tightly that even local bills could not be introduced, lest they provoke discussion of the international situation.

Secretary of State Lansing and Chairman Flood, of the house foreign committee, conferred over the possibility of a compromise warning measure, which Flood wishes to offer, but neither would comment upon the situation.

Officials were surprised that only one allied reply came, as they had expected a joint answer.

Regardless of what this reply is, the government can not ask Austria and Germany to postpone operation of their decree, as this, it was explained, would put the United States in the position of seeking postponement of an act held to contravene international law.

On the other hand, if the allies unanimously agreed to the United States disarmament proposal, Lansing might ask a postponement, since Germany made it known she would rescind the decree if the allies promised the desired disarmament.

France is believed to be the na-

## LIVE COUGAR IS ROPED ON GRAYBACK

### Big Cat Is Captured After Being Held in Tree by Dogs All Night, and Will Star in Moving Pictures

You can get about anything you go out after in southern Oregon. Even if it's a live cougar that your varied tastes may demand, the live cougar can be forthcoming. A few days ago John B. Hammerley, Claude Bardon and John McTimmins outfitted and started out on quest of a live cougar, with moving pictures of scenes in the wilds as the ultimate object. The cougar was first to be caught, then the movie settings arranged at leisure, with the cougar as the star actor—or actress, as the case might resolve itself.

With the three trained cougar dogs belonging to Mr. Hammerley, the hunt was undertaken in the Grayback country, going up from the Sucker creek side. The first cougar treed proved a little too slippery and after being held for a time made its escape in the thick timber. But Thursday evening the dogs hit a hot scent again, and soon had the cougar treed. Darkness coming on just as the big cat was in the tree, it was necessary to remain with the dogs and hold the animal in the tree till morning if it was to be taken alive. In the morning, with Bardon and McTimmins handling the ropes, the cougar was subdued after about two hours, the men climbing the tree to get the ropes over the cat's head. The cougar, a medium sized female, was then lashed to a pole and carried out over the trail by the men, and Saturday morning arrived in Grants Pass, being safely housed in a big box. The cougar is a medium-sized animal, and looks sleek and well fed. The men state that on Friday, in the district where they captured the cougar, they found the partly devoured carcasses of 15 deer.

It had been expected she would say the proposals did not interest her, as she had never armed any ships, though it was doubted France would question England's claims in the matter.

## ZEPPELIN FLEET MAY CARRY FOOD ACROSS OCEAN FROM U.S. TO GERMANY

(By United Press Leased Wire.)  
Berlin, Feb. 26.—A great fleet of Zeppelins flying to America and bringing food back to Germany, is a possibility, if this war lasts several years longer, an authority on aeronautics declared today.

"Seems like a dream," he said, "but a war that has seen submarines go from Wilhelmshaven to Constantinople and Zeppelins and aeroplanes play unexpected tricks, may see even more startling developments in, say, three or four years.

"The very fact that this possibility is being discussed is evidence of the realization here that this war between England and Germany is to be decisive if not a battle to exhaustion. In this finish fight, Germany expects to win, if necessary, by bringing into play all the inventive powers that already have stood her in such good stead."

In counting the probabilities of a long war, German military critics are casting their eye at neutrals that may become involved. They are speculating, for instance, on what would hap-

pen if the English threw an army into Holland and marched against Aisla-Chappelle to trap the German army in Belgium.

But the fact that the Dutch government has just voted new credits for the defense of Holland's neutrality, satisfies the average Berliner that there is little danger from that source.

Sweden, Spain, and Roumania, it is conceded here, are the three neutrals most likely to play prominent roles if the war is long drawn out.

Rumors that Sweden plans to attack Russia if the war becomes one of exhaustion, have been in circulation here for months.

Reports that Spain has been buying munitions in the United States have also aroused public interest when viewed in connection with Spain's decades-old ambition to conquer Gibraltar back from England.

Roumania is the unsolved puzzle of the Balkins. At present she is controlled almost entirely, according to reports brought here, by England's heavy purchases of Roumanian grain.

## WHY PRESIDENT OPPOSES WARNING TO AMERICANS

Washington, Feb. 26.—The reason for administration opposition to issuance of a warning to Americans to keep off armed belligerent ships was explained by a high state department official today for the benefit of the public, at the request of the United Press. He said that following the Lusitania torpedoing, Germany promised not to attack unarmed liners in the future without warning to insure the safety of passengers. Then before the informal Lansing-Bernstorff conferences were fairly started over demands for disavowal, admission of liability and punishment of the commander, the torpedoing of the Arabic occurred.

In settling the latter case, Germany promised not to attack any liner without warning. After months of informal negotiations, Germany phrased a final reply in the Lusitania case, satisfactory to the original American demands, but before the formal agreement was reached, however, Germany issued her proclamation of war on armed enemy merchant ships.

"Another reading of the Arabic promises showed that the decree was wholly inconsistent with the settlement and nullified it. Again, if the government were to warn citizens, it would place the situation in a position of nullifying and even repudiating the Lusitania demands," said the official.

## RAILROAD PLANS FAST MATURING

Robert Twohy and G. W. Boschke, respectively president and chief engineer for the California and Oregon Coast railroad, now building from this city, returned Saturday from a visit to Medford, being accompanied on the return trip by Judge John Twohy, whom they met at Medford. The return was made by auto, and a number of gentlemen who are in the valley investigating certain proposed development of resources came also, and are looking into conditions here. Robert Twohy left last night for Portland, but expects to return early in the week. Judge Twohy is remaining in the city. The firm is fast getting things in shape for active operations for the extension of the railroad into the Illinois valley as soon as the locating engineers have completed their work on Hays hill. John Hampshire, of the Twohy company, came down from Portland Saturday morning, but returned to the Rose City last evening.

Mrs. L. D. Tinsley, of San Diego, Cal., arrived in the city Friday night to spend some days with relatives.

## BIG DIVIDEND FOR OIL STOCKHOLDERS

(By United Press Leased Wire.)  
San Francisco, Feb. 26.—The Standard Oil company was authorized by the state railroad commission today to issue \$24,843,300 worth of its common stock as a dividend of one-half a share to each share of stock outstanding.

The company scheduled with the commission assets of \$100,000,000 and a surplus of \$45,000,000. Its net profits in 1915 were nearly \$10,000,000.

The company operates in California alone and comes under the jurisdiction of the railroad commission because of its ownership of pipe lines which the legislature a year ago said came within the jurisdiction of the railroad commission.

## DOUAMONT RECAPTURED BY FRENCH

### Fortress at Verdun, Taken by the Germans, Is Again in Possession of the Allies After Desperate Battle

Paris, Feb. 26.—The fortress of Douaumont, taken by the Germans earlier in the day, has been recaptured by the French after a desperate struggle, the war office announced tonight. Continued bloody fighting around Verdun was reported.

London, Feb. 26.—Advancing relentlessly along their path of blood, the Germans, driving for the fortress city of Verdun, have captured the strong fortress of Douaumont, four miles northeast of Verdun, according to a German official statement today.

The Paris war office did not confirm this claim, however.

If the German claim is true, it means that the first breach has been made in the Verdun forts, and indicates that the Teuton offensive now seriously threatens the French stronghold.

The reported capture is believed to have followed the collapse of the French front from the Ridge Cole du Poivre (Pepper heights) through Bezonvaux.

In view of the position of Douaumont, it is also believed the whole French force defending Verdun from the north and northeast has been backed into the fortress under the most terrible stroke dealt by the Germans since their offensive started. Cote du Poivre, key to the city's northern defenses, had been regarded as impregnable, even though assailed by the enormous number of guns the Germans had massed for their drive. The latest Paris' statement admitted that German regiments were assailing the French armored trenches and redoubts there, though it claimed these assaults had been halted.

From Douaumont, the German guns can bear upon the forts De Vaur, De Tavannes and De Belleville and sweep the northern plain about the city with a fire no infantry could withstand.

French estimates that the Germans lost 150,000 thus far are considered entirely too high, here, though it is probable that nearly two corps were wiped out in mass attacks against some of the strongest field positions the world has ever known.

Capture of Douaumont was accompanied by tremendous losses. The blood of thousands of men mingled with the snow of the region.

Beyond doubt, the Germans have centered all their resources on the western front, on the Verdun drive, hoping that, after taking it, they will be able to make their way to Paris and thus bring an early end to the war.

French reports indicate that the Teutons have drawn on their Russian fortifications to supply needed guns, and that others, released through Serbian successes, have been concentrated in the Verdun region.

The enormity of German losses already is considered proof that the kaiser plans to bring France to her knees and to compel a peace.

The French have been thrown back nearly four miles along the eight-mile front before the city, and, according to Berlin, the Teutons are still progressing.

While the offensive against the French proceeds, the English to the north are not inactive. The British statement reported the English had attacked east of Maas and Armetieres last night, but claimed they had been repulsed.